

REMARKS

Disposition of the Claims

The present response is intended to be a full and complete response to the Office Action mailed October 17, 2008. Claims 14 to 29, as amended, and newly added claims 30 to 42 are pending in the present application.

Amendments to the Specification

The specification has been amended to include the customary headings and where necessary additional text. More specifically, with regard to the additional text added, Applicants note that text for a summary of the invention has been added a long with text for the description of the figures. The summary of the invention text finds support in claims 14, 24, 25 and 26. The description of the figures text finds support on page 6, lines 14 to 17. Applicants maintain the no new matter has been added to the specification.

Objection to the Specification

The Examiner objects to the specification on the basis that the specification is missing the customary U.S. patent headings such as "Background of the Invention", "Brief Description of the Drawings", etc.

In view of this objection, Applicant herewith submits a number of amendments to the specification to place the specification in compliance with customary U.S. formatting. Applicants respectfully request entry of these amendments.

Objections/Amendments to the Claims

The Examiner objects claims to claims 14 to 23, 25 and 26 on the basis that the claims recite "characterized in that" which is not standard U.S. patent nomenclature. Accordingly, said claims have been amended to replace the phrase "characterized in that" with the term "wherein". Applicants respectfully request entry of said amendments.

Claim 16 has also been amended to depend upon claim 15. Claims 17 and 18 have been amended to depend upon claim 16.

In addition, Applicants have added new claims 30 to 42 and respectfully request entry of these new claims. Applicants maintain that these new dependent claims do not contain new subject matter which would warrant and additional search. These claims are merely reflective of already existing dependent claims which have been drafted to depend upon alternative claims.

35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph, Rejection

The Examiner rejects claims 14 to 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The Examiner states that with regard to claim 14, lines 6 to 9, the internal fluid passage is not positively recited to be between the pressure control means and the fluid inlet orifice or to be between the pressure control means and the fluid outlet orifice as recited. Claim 14 has been amended to address this issue.

In claim 16, the recitation of the cylinder block being place in a “hole” in the body is vague and indefinite in that the “hole” has not been distinctly recited. Claim 16 has been amended to address this issue.

In claim 18, line 3, the term “it” is vague and indefinite. Claim 18 has been amended to replace “it” with “the screw”.

In addition, the following recitations lack antecedent basis:

a. In claim 14, line 16, “the operator” lacks antecedent basis. Claim 14 has been amended to read “an operator”.

b. In claim 17, “one of the bases of the cylinder” lacks antecedent basis. Claim 16 has been amended to indicate that the cylinder has a base. Accordingly, Applicants maintain that in view of this amendment, claim 17 no longer lacks antecedent basis.

c. In claim 18, “the cylinder/cylinder” and “the cylinder” lack antecedent basis. Claim 18 has been amended to depend upon claim 16. Applicants maintain that in view of the amendment of each of these claims, claim 16 now provides antecedent basis for claim 18.

d. In claim 19, "the cylinder" lacks antecedent basis. Claim 19 depends from claim 17 which has been amended to depend from claim 16. Accordingly, in view of these amendments, Applicants maintain that claim 16 indirectly provides antecedent basis for claim 19.

e. In claim 20, "the base of the cylinder" and "this annulus" lack antecedent basis. Claim 20 depends from claim 17 which has been amended to depend from claim 16. Claim 16 has been amended to provide that the cylinder has a base. In addition, claim 20 has been amended to clarify the language with regard to the annulus. Support for this amendment may be found in the paragraph [0049] of the publication of the present application. Accordingly, in of these amendments, Applicants maintain that there is now antecedent basis.

f. In claims 23, 25 and 26, "the operator" lacks antecedent basis. Claim 23 depends from claim 14 which has been amended to correct this issue. Claims 25 and 26 have been amended to replace "the operator" with "an operator".

In view of the above, Applicants maintain that the claims of the present application are no longer indefinite and respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, rejection of said claims be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

The Examiner is thanked for the indication that Claims 14 to 29 would be allowed if redrafted to overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, rejections. Said claims have been amended to address the issues noted by the Examiner. Accordingly, it is now believed that the present application is in condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. Should the examiner believe a telephone call would expedite the prosecution of the application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

It is not believed that any fee is due at this time. However, if that belief is incorrect, Applicants hereby authorize the Commissioner to debit deposit account number 01-1375 for said fee(s).

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 19, 2009

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Donna Blalock Holguin', written over a horizontal line.

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